

Group II made up of Claims 20-27 drawn to a ferrous reaction reagent.

Applicants elect, with traverse, the subject matter of the claims of Group I, i.e., Claims 1-19 and 28-34, for examination in this application. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw, or at the very least modify, the requirement for restriction and provide an action on the merits of the nonelected claims.

Restriction is proper only if the claims are either independent or patentably distinct and the search and examination of the entire application would impose a serious burden on the examiner (MPEP § 803). Applicants respectfully traverse the Restriction Requirement because the Examiner has not provided sufficient reasons to show that such a burden exists. Here, all of applicants' claims are directed either to a method for determining oxidative stress, a method of identifying a mammalian subject in need of medical treatment, and a kit suitable for assaying oxidative stress (Claims 1-19 and 28-34); or to a ferrous reaction reagent which may be utilized in such methods or kits (Claims 20-27). Applicants submit that the Examiner, in searching for methods for determining oxidative stress and identifying a mammalian subject in need of medical treatment, as well as a kit suitable for assaying oxidative stress, would necessarily find art related to the methods themselves (the claims of Group I) and ferrous reaction reagents which may be utilized in such methods and kits (the claims of Group II).

Applicants respectfully submit that all of the claims of the application as presented herein, including the nonelected claims, are in condition for examination on the merits. Early favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



Paul J. Farrell
Reg. No. 33,494
Attorney for Applicants

DILWORTH & BARRESE, LLP
333 Earle Ovington Blvd.
Uniondale, NY 11553
(516) 228-8484 (tel)
(516) 228-8516 (fax)

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